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Fact Sheet

February 1994

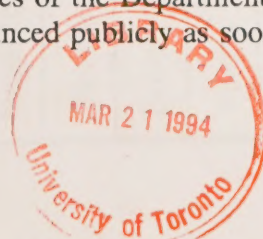
FIRST NATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

At the First Ministers' meeting on December 21, 1993, the federal, provincial and territorial governments agreed to establish Canada Infrastructure Works, a shared cost program designed to meet primarily the infrastructure needs and priorities of local governments.

As part of this initiative, the federal government set aside funds specifically for Indian communities, to be administered separately as the First Nations Infrastructure Initiative (FNII). The FNII's prime objective is to create incremental opportunities in First Nations communities to address local infrastructure priorities and create more jobs for Indians. It demonstrates that the government is prepared to ensure that Indians have access to national programs, like Canada Infrastructure Works, that are designed to create opportunities for Canadians.

The federal government has committed approximately \$15 million to FNII for each of the two years of the program, allocated in proportion to population and unemployment rates in the same way that federal funds are allocated to the provinces and territories under Canada Infrastructure Works. Each Indian community participating will be expected to contribute a minimum of one third of the cost of its project, and will be required to identify additional funding as the FNII will contribute a maximum of 50 percent of the total cost of a project. Communities are also encouraged to seek funding from provincial, territorial and municipal governments, or from the private sector where appropriate. Depending on the cost-sharing arrangements that can be worked out by participating communities, the total value of this initiative could reach \$45 million a year. All funds committed by the federal government will be spent within two years.

Indian reserves and Indian communities on Crown lands are eligible to participate in the FNII. Communities have been asked to develop and submit project proposals reflecting their own priorities so that selections can be made no later than March 31, 1994. Proposals will be assessed and approved by the regional offices of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and announced publicly as soon as possible after that.

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All projects accepted under the FNII will be consistent with the national program. Basic criteria for assessing project proposals will include:

- incrementality and/or acceleration of investment;
- short and long-term job creation;
- use of innovative technologies;
- bringing infrastructure up to community standards, codes and by laws;
- enhancing long-term skills in the workforce;
- enhancing environmental quality and sustainability; and
- use of sound innovative financing techniques which may include private capital.

Approved projects will be delivered directly by participating First Nations under an agreement with DIAND.

As the program is being administered on a regional basis, further information should be obtained from DIAND Regional Directors General.

ATLANTIC, Gerry Kerr	902-661-6262
QUÉBEC, Guy McKenzie	418-648-3270
ONTARIO, Audrey Doerr	416-973-6201
MANITOBA, Brenda D. Kustra	204-983-2475
SASKATCHEWAN, Myler Savill	306-780-5950
ALBERTA, Ken Kirby	403-495-2835
B.C., John Watson	604-666-5201
YUKON, Mike Ivanski	403-667-3300
N.W.T., Warren Johnson	403-920-8111

First Nation Infrastructure Initiative Composite Allocation Formula

Province/ Territory	Share of Total Population (%)	Share of Total Unemployed (%)	Composite Formula*	Share of Federal Two-Year Funding (\$)
Atlantic	4.5	4.8	4.7	698,158
Quebec	11.8	13.0	12.3	1,830,491
Ontario	20.7	17.0	19.0	2,841,878
Manitoba	16.6	14.0	15.4	2,302,658
Saskatchewan	13.9	9.9	11.9	1,776,732
Alberta	13.9	14.0	14.1	2,108,293
British Columbia	14.8	21.0	17.7	2,638,695
Yukon	0.9	2.3	1.6	239,009
Northwest Territories	2.9	3.6	3.3	489,086
Canada	100.0	100.0	100.0	14,925,000

* Average of Population and Unemployment Shares.

